

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DJIBOU 00095 261733Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CAB-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 L-03 PM-05 H-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 HA-05 /122 W

-----031756 261741Z /62

P R 261231Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 0095

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, MOPS DJ ET FR

SUBJ: CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT INCIDENT OVER ASSAB

1. WHAT APPEARS TO BE CASE OF PILOT ERROR CAUSED INTENSIVE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE TO BE DIRECTED AT AIR FRANCE FLIGHT NUMBER 460 WHICH HAD STRAYED OFF FLIGHT PATH AND FLOWN OVER ASSAB AT APPROXIMATELY 0200 HOURS LOCAL 24 JANUARY. AIR FRANCE 747 SUSTAINED NO APPARENT DAMAGE WHEN LATER EXAMINED AT MARS-EILLES. FLIGHT HAD BEEN TRAVELING AT 25,000 FEET AND NO WARNING WAS ISSUED BY ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES BEFORE OPENING FIRE.

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PASSENGERS WERE GENERALLY UNAWARE THAT PLANE WAS BEING SHOT AT AND WERE INFORMED ONLY THAT AIRCRAFT GOING THROUGH SUDDEN STORM. NO INJURIES SUSTAINED AMONG 300 PASSENGERS ON BOARD.

2. ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES ISSUED NOTAM APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO ADVISING ALL AIRCRAFT THAT OVERFLIGHTS ASSAB STRICTLY FORBIDDEN. CURRENT FLIGHT PATH BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND NORTHERN

POINTS IS LOCATED 33 MILES WES OF ASSAM.

3. FRENCH FLIGHT CREWS REFUSED TO COMPLETE AIR FRANCE FLIGHT PARIS-JIDDA-DJIBOUTI ON FOLLOWING DAY BECAUSE OF INCIDENT, LEAVING 120 PASSENGERS STRANDED AT DJIBOUTI. AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO PARIS DIRECTLY FROM JIDDA. INTERESTING ANECDOTE LOCALLY IS THAT AIR FRANCE FLIGHT CREWS VERY NERVOUS AT DJIBOUTI ARRIVALS BECAUSE OF HEAVY CONCENTRATION OF FRENCH LEGIONAIRES AND GENDARMES GUARDING AIRPORT FOR EVERY AIR FRANCE ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE. LOCAL AVIATION AUTHORITIES REPORT THAT THIS HEAVY GUARD WAS MOUNTED AT SPECIFIC REQUEST AIR FRANCE WHICH THREATENED DROP DJIBOUTI FROM SCHEDULES TO AND FROM DJIBOUTI ARE OPERATING NORMALLY AS OF 26 JANUARY.

5. DEPARTMENT SHOULD MAKE CERTAIN THAT CITED NOTAM(NUMBER UNAVAILABLE HERE) HAS BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL U.S. CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES. CLARKE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978DJIBOU00095  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**SAS ID:** 3711863  
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**Subject:** CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT INCIDENT OVER ASSAB  
**TAGS:** EAIR, MOPS, DJ, ET, FR  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014